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THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY

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could have been avoided, had Russia taken a little more straightforward course in her diplomatic intercourse. There has always been an evident desire on the part of the two nations to work with Russia; the two nations had sufficiently much in common, and the confluence between them showed that each was in a position to supplement the other's needs; and had the people of the two nations been left to work out their own destinies, there is no doubt that a state of mutual confidence would have sprung up between the two. But the Russian Government had no confidence in its own people and less in that of England; it was beside in that stage of financial development when it sought to render trade most profitable to itself by arresting its development with barriers raised at every possible passage. It was true that England was its best purchaser, and might not naturally expect to be treated as a customer with a growing account. But unfortunately the more England peered into Russia, the more distrust she experienced; and this distrust once engendered went on in an increasing ratio, and from trade spread into politics. Why the discomfiture of Russian trade should be conceived as being in any way advantageous to England is difficult to surmise, but that it should be accepted as a truism by every Russian Finance Minister, who took steps accordingly to render it impossible, is still more remarkable. That this was the view taken is unfortunately too true, but meanwhile events in which ministers had comparatively little to say commenced to revolutionize even Russia. Though it was the fashion to deride the emancipation of the serfs as the harshest of all amiable Empires, the measure, after a generation, began to have its natural effects in gradually opening the eyes of the people to the great wealth of their country, waiting only to be developed. The present Tsar, ruled by the most able Finance Minister that Russia has as yet produced, threw himself heart and soul into the project, and with the financial help of France at his disposal set himself to the task. The ambition is a worthy one, and the country has already felt its effects; following out the tradition of Peter the Great Russia turned her attention to the consolidation of those great tracts of Asia which in the previous generation she had overrun, and the result quickly showed the wisdom of the step. In such a task Russia might have felt assured of the co-operation of England, but old prejudices have hitherto proved too strong, and the work was unluckily taken up in a spirit of hostility rather than of friendly co-operation, and a gordon of hostile tariff was raised between the two countries. Again in the development of Eastern Siberia the unfriendly feeling was permitted to gain the upper hand. This was more especially shown in the case of the Great Siberian Railway, where it was assumed that the altitude of England would be necessary to be a hostile one. Yet England had shown all through her interest, and her intention not to throw any obstacles in the way of the development of those great territories. England, in fact, with her large interests in the Pacific, was in a position to laid this addition to her commerce, and purposely left the road open. That a large section of the rising statesmen of the Empire on both sides saw that each country had much to gain by a better understanding is doubtless the case, but yet it is undeniable that the old leaven is still working, and sufficiently so to hurt the best interests of both nations.

Having said so much we can the better turn to what Russia has been doing in those regions, and see how much we really have in common. When in 1863 Russia obtained the sanction of China, a nation entering the innumerable plains between the Ussuri and the Ocean, she had half unconsciously taken a step which made her potentially a great Pacific power. She probably did not understand the wealth of the new land that had fallen to her, but she had acted in accordance with her traditional policy of extension along the lines of least resistance. No other Power at the time was in touch with this district, nor did Russia herself for many years try to develop it. Twenty years ago the land was a wilderness. "Our people," said the Governor of the English, speaking of the fertility of the land, "are not as your agriculturists, and have no disposition to emigrate; if you only had it, your people would not permit it to remain unoccupied." But the awakening took place, and, resolved to freedom, the Russian peasant showed himself equal to the task. Under the old régime Siberia was a source of terror to the Russian peasant, and the Government found that compulsory banishment could never be made a means of developing these regions, however wealthy they might prove; but when it turned it to the wiser system of encouraging emigration, results happened similar to what have occurred with ourselves in Australia. As long as we made our colonies the dumping-ground for our criminal population, no advancement was possible; but the result of putting an end to enforced emigration was to make a new nation, already strong enough materially to aid the mother country. So when Russia began to look upon Siberia as something better than a receptacle for hereditary spirits, the Russian agricultural community availed himself of the opportunity offered by the new country. The English and Americans in Manila do not seem to approve of Palau, but have spelt the present Chinese Consul General, whose work was opposing.

A Correspondent writes to *The North China Daily News* that rumors are ripe all over the Wenchow district, indicating of a general change in the Administration of the Chinese Consulate by Don Carlos Palau, formerly Acting Chinese Consul General. Permission was obtained from Peking, says our contemporary, for this visit to Manila on the part of investigating reporters of the *Wen-kung* (Wu-wu) followers in Manila. *Tan* *Li* *Kang* desired against Palau, but another commission is expected, on which the Chinese Ambassador is to be present. The *Wen-kung* (Wu-wu) party cut out the name of the subordinates, which included many holding important positions in the 13 different mercantile and other houses in the colony.

Mr. Arthur, in acknowledging the gift, said—*"Mr. Ng Kwei Shang, fellow-worker under the Government, old pupil, and all friends; I thank you very, very much. I think I am old enough to know some of your old friends, and that you and Mrs. Arthur will have long life, health, wealth and prosperity. On behalf of the subscribers, I have the greatest pleasure in presenting to you this souvenir, which bears the following inscription:—Presented by W. M. B. Arthur, Esq., J. P., by direction of the Magistracy and friends in view of their esteem, 1st May, 1900. Hongkong."*

Mr. Arthur's gift was accepted by the Chinese Consul General, whose work was

is directed to exclusively to one that its real meaning and importance is overlooked.

Still, as we have more than once indicated, so far as we can see, the interests of Britain and Russia are not antagonistic, but complementary, and the task of the statesman is to so guide them that there will be neither unnecessary friction nor an open conflict, but the welfare of all concerned promoted.

This is a wise utterance, and we hope to see before long that the fact that the interests of Russia in the long run rather complementary than in their nature opposed may in time begin to bear good fruit in a better understanding between the Powers, who, with all their traditional differences, have really more in common than any other nations, except ourselves and the United States.

Yesterday being Dewy Day, a dinner in celebration was given at the Kowloon Hotel last night.

Mr. William F. Aldrich of San Francisco has been appointed United States Vice-Consul General at Hongkong and is expected to arrive here on the 25th instant.

The Annual Meeting of Shareholders and Subscribers in connection with the City Hall was held in that building yesterday afternoon. The full report of the meeting will appear in to-morrow's issue.

On the completion of the Japanese Naval Programme the total number of warships the Japanese Navy will be brought up to 260, but the vessels which are taking part in the naval review will be about 40.

On the morning of the 22nd ult. an unsuccessful attempt was made to rob the Bank of China in Singapore. The thief got as far as the strong-room door, but was unable to enter. According to their only plunder was \$3 from the cashier's desk.

Mr. Liu Kuan-yi, newly-vested Viceroy of the Hainan Province, left Tientsin on the 20th ult. by the China Merchants' steamer *Shen-ki* for Nanking, where he is expected to arrive on the morning of the 29th instant. A large staff accompanies him.

It is reported that at a place called Shao-jo, in Ningpo district, Chinkiang, the natives have attacked a French mission and wounded a French missionary in charge. A report of the occurrence has been sent to the French Consul General at Shanghai, who is moving in the matter.

The Return of Cases of Communicable Disease in the Colony during the week ended 23rd April shows that there were 33 cases of plague (31 in Victoria) and 28 deaths; one case of diphtheria and one death (Portuguese); 3 cases of cutaneous leprosy and one death. The plague record for the 24 hours up to noon yesterday was 3 cases and 4 deaths.

In view of the outbreak of plague in the town, the Osaka authorities have decided to make investigations to ascertain whether bats can be infected with plague like rats and the test will be made shortly. Osaka with its many rivers is infested with bats and a crowd is gathered to watch the experiment.

Ronote's correspondent at Bloomfontein, 28th April, says that the commandos round Thaba-ham are dispersing singly to their homes. Many who had previously sworn allegiance declare that they were compelled to fight.

Intercepted letters prove that many of the submissions were a dishonorable device to enable the creation of trouble from the rear.

London, 29th April.

THE WAR.

General Pole-Carew's division has arrived at Bloomfontein.

The Boer peace delegates, without visiting any further European Capital, are sailing in the *Jerico*.

ACCIDENT AT THE PARIS EXHIBITION.

A bridge in the grounds of the Paris exhibition collapsed, and falling on a crowd below killed seven and injured many.

PRESENTATIONS TO MR. W. M. B. ARTHUR, J.P.

To-day another gentleman who has long been a familiar figure in the colony leaves for home, namely, Mr. W. M. B. Arthur, J.P., Chief Clerk at the Magistracy. On Saturday week in view of his approaching departure the present Chinese members of the staff at the Magistracy, together with some who formerly worked under him, entered the Magistracy and presented to him a small gift. The members of the Chinese Staff, both indoor and outdoor, the foreign members, on the news of his approaching departure, determined to express the sentiments they held, and accordingly a committee consisting of Heads of Departments was appointed to arrange for the presentation, which was made on Thursday last.

The French Consul at Hsin-hua has received telegrams from the Chinese Consul, Ching-fa, stating that the jetzt moben have attacked the French Mission in Chia-ki-hien, a place called Lo-shan-chen, and that they were there trying to burn down the church and other buildings when the message left. The scene of the trouble is quite close to the border of Hsien and the people are reported to be in a very turbulent and excited state; the local officials not being able to control them. The magistrate has accordingly requested the Viceroy Ching-chang-tung to send extra troops to protect the missionaries.

It has been stated in Japanese vernacular papers and his statement has been copied into some of the English papers in Japan and China, that the Emperor of Corea is having a palace built in foreign style, designed by a Japanese architect. As a matter of fact, the Chinese Emperor is building a large granite building which is of the most modern style of buildings in Western style in all Asia. The plans were completed in 1892, the foundations have been finished for a year, and the working of the great columns is being proceeded with. The architect in Mr. J. R. Harding, C.E., Engineer-in-Chief of the I. M. Custom. A Japanese is employed as engineer of the works, and it would seem that he is posing as the architect. —N. C. Dally News.

Having said so much we can the better turn to what Russia has been doing in those regions, and see how much we really have in common. When in 1863

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Field Cornet Ross and Geyer, the alleged rebel ring-leaders, were brought up again today and were further remanded until April 14th for additional evidence from Belmont. Six other prisoners, who were caught fighting at Carter's Bridge, were remanded until April 10th for further evidence. Another prisoner named Vinken, who before the siege lived at Westerton but joined the Boer irregulars Koppehant in this district and was present at the Roodepoort last night, was committed for trial at the sessions on May 5.

At Backly, West, the case against a Civil Service official named Kriek who is charged with high treason, was remanded until April 3rd.

THE SITE OF MAPEKING.

Bloemfontein, 30th March.

Now received from Mafeking up to 10th March.

Boden-Powell reports general health and spirits good. The locally-made gun, searchlight, and ammunition work successfully, also the paper currency, to which he is now adding one pound note.

Food holding out well.

THE CAPTURED CONVOY.

Blomfontein, 30th March.

The force commanded by Colonel Broadhead, and consisting of the 10th Hussars, the Household Cavalry, U. and Q. batteries of Horse Artillery, and a force of mounted infantry under Colonel Pritchard, which was garrisoning Thabat Nek yesterday, in consequence of the near approach of a large force of Boers, was obliged to leave last night and marched to Bloemfontein watermark, south of the Modder, where they encamped at 4 o'clock in the morning.

At early dawn the camp was shelled from the rear. Colonel Broadhead sent off a convoy and the batteries while the rest of the force remained to act as a rearguard.

The convoy arrived in a steep spiral where the Boers were concealed. The 1st detachment walked into the ambush and were captured, together with five guns of Q. Battery and one of U. Battery.

The loss of life was not great, since most of the men walked into the trap before a shot was fired.

General Colvile's Division, which left Bloemfontein early this morning, arrived at 12 o'clock and is now shelling the enemy.

THE MOST POWERFUL SHIP IN THE WORLD.

The first-class line-of-battle ship *Asahi*, constructed at Elswick to order of the Japanese Government, has been duly taken over by Captain Mieu and the crew sent to England to bring her out. A telegram to Japan, dated the 12th instant, reported that the transfer was completed on that day, and that the ship was lying at Southampton. *The Naval and Military Record* speaks of her thus:—The Japanese battleship *Asahi* is the most powerful battleship in the world, being 200 tons heavier than the *Formidable* class, and carrying two more 6-inch and two more smaller guns than the latest type of British battleship. In the controversy that has been going on of late with regard to the favour shown by contractors to foreign Governments it is interesting to bear in mind that the *Asahi* was laid down at Clydebank at the end of 1897, or two years and four months ago, and as soon as she has completed her armament she will be ready for commission. But, just as the public mind has been cleared of the delusion that the launch of a ship marks a distinct period in her progress, it is now necessary to destroy the impression that the laying down of the first keel-plate indicates the actual commencement of a ship. Invidious comparisons have been drawn, for instance, between the *Asahi* and the *Formidable*. The Japanese ship, we are told, was launched only a year ago, while the *Formidable* was launched as far back as November, 1895; yet the foreigner has stolen a march on us. Again, if we are to be guided by figures, it is said that the *Asahi* was commenced three months earlier than the English ship, and has been completed nine months in advance of her. All such comparisons, however, are based on false data. A ship is not commenced when her keel is laid, but when the drawings are delivered and a start on the preparation of material is made. Not is the steam trial a safer criterion than the launch of a ship as the *Asahi* demonstrates, for while she is ready for steaming she is by no means ready for her gun trials. Undoubtedly the Japanese ship enjoys the advantage of being built by the first principle of the armour-plate, but if we measure the time of building a ship by the interval that elapses between the placing of the order and the laying of the plating it will be found that there is not much difference between the *Asahi* and the *Formidable*.

LATEST STEAMER MOVEMENTS.

The C. P. R. Co.'s steamer *Empress of India* arrived at Nagas at 7 a.m. on Monday, the 3rd ultimo, and left again at 4 p.m. yesterday, the 1st inst., for Kobe, where she is due to arrive to-day, the 2nd inst.

The N. Y. K. steamer *Izumi Maru* (American Line) left Shanghai for the port at noon on the 1st inst., and is expected to arrive here on the 4th inst.

The N. P. steamer *Victor* has arrived at Yokohama and will sail for Hongkong on the 3rd instant. The N. P. steamer *Argus* has arrived at Yokohama and sailed for Portland (Oregon) yesterday.

The P. M. steamer *City of R'valde Janeiro* with mails, 200 which left here March 27th for San Francisco via Shanghai, Nagasaki, Kobe, Island Sea, Yokohama, and Honolulu, arrived at her destination on the 26th inst.

The T. K. K. steamer *Nippon Maru*, via Manila, has left San Francisco for this port via Honolulu, Yokohama, Island Sea, Kobe, Nagasaki and Shanghai on the 25th inst.

SHIPPING REPORTS.

The British steamer *Yuching*, from Manila 28th April, had moderate N.E. breeze and sea fine with passing clouds.

The British steamer *Queen Adelaide*, from Sajigon 26th April, had strong N.E. wind and heavy sea throughout passage.

The British steamer *Tsingtao*, from Shanghai 26th April and Swatow 3rd, had bristly winds and fine weather to Swatow. From Swatow bristly E.S.E. winds and fine to port.

The British steamer *Halton* from Foochow 27th April, Amoy 28th and Swatow 3rd, had light N.E. to S.S.E. breeze and following sea from port to port. Vessels in Amoy—*Bellerophon*, *Janus* and *Song Lwei*. In Swatow—*Tachenyi*, *Fuksay*, *Taiwan*, *Foochow*, *New-chwang*, *Lokang* and *Agusan Maru*.

KEATING'S POWDER.

NOW READY.

THE CHRONICLE AND DIRECTORY
FOR CHINA, JAPAN, COREA, INDU-CHINA,
SIAM, STRAITS SETTLEMENTS,
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LANDS, INDIA, PHILIP-
PINES, BORNEO, &c.,
FOR 1900

THE THIRTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL ISSUE.

The DIRECTORY covers the whole of the ports and cities of the Far East, from Nothern India to Siberia, in which European business is done.

Not only is the Directory as full and complete in each case as it can be made, but each Colony, Port, or Settlement is prefaced by a DESCRIPTION, carefully revised each year, most of which will serve as accurate GUIDE to the TRAVELLER, giving every detail in connection with the places, their History, Topography, &c. &c.

The Information in these Descriptions, consisting of a hundred interesting articles, packed with facts, correctly set out, and containing statistics of the TRADE of each Country and Port, would alone suffice to fill a large volume.

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Tidzianow	Shasi	Sanshui
Post Arthur	Ichow	Wuchowfu
Chinkoo	Chungking	Kwangchowan
Wuchaiwei	Hangchow	Putkhoi
Liukungtan	Ningpo	Holhoo
Kinshoo	Wuchow	Langchow
Shangkai	Santa	Mengtze
Soochow	Poochoo	Hokow
Chinkung	Amoy	Szemo
Tokyo	Osaka	Keelung
Yokohama	Nagasaki	Taihoku
Hyogo	Hakodate	Takow
Kobe	Tamari	Aiping
Vladivostock	COREA	Nikolajewsk
Seoul	Wousan	Mokpo
Chindipu	Fusan	Chinapoo
Kun-San	Pingyang	Songchin
HONGKONG AND ITS DEPENDENCIES		
MACAO		
FRANCE INDO-CHINA		
Hanoi	Annam	Tourane
Haiphong	Hue	Saigon
Toukin Provinces	Quinhon	Cambridge
Maui	Noilo	Cebu
Sarawak	Labuan	British N. Borneo
BANGKOK		
STRAITS SETTLEMENTS		
Singapore	Penang	Malacca, Prov. Wellesley
Johore	Sungai Ujong	Selangor
Patna	Jobon	Perak
NETHERLANDS INDIA		
Batavia	Samarang	Padang
Buitenzorg	Soutraisia	Macassar
East Coast of Sumatra		
NAVAL SQUADRONS		
British	German	Russian
French	Japanese	United States
OFFICERS OF COAST AND RIVER STEAMERS		

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THE MAPS AND PLANS have been engraved by one of the most eminent Firms in Great Britain and are corrected and brought up to date. They consist this year of fourteen of the following:-

COLORED PLATE OF FLAGS OF FOREIGN HONGS.

MAP OF THE FAR EAST.

MAP OF EASTERN CHINA.

PLAN OF YOKOHAMA.

PLAN OF KOBE AND HYOGO.

PLAN OF FOREIGN SETTLEMENTS, TIENTSIN.

PLAN OF FOREIGN CONCESSION, SHANGHAI.

NEW PLAN OF HONGKONG (SHANGHAI) WITH

Inset Showing the Extended Settled Settlement.

LARGE PLAN OF THE CITY OF VICTORIA.

PLAN OF PEAK DISTRICT, VICTORIA.

PLAN OF KOWLOON.

MAP OF KOWLOON NEW TERRITORY.

MAP OF HANOI.

NEW PLAN OF SAIGON.

NEW PLAN OF MANILA.

NEW AND ENLARGED PLAN OF SINGAPORE.

PLAN OF PENANG.

NEW PLAN OF BATAVIA.

The CHRONICLE covers the notable events of the last half century in the Far East together with the Texts of all the most important Treaties concluded with the countries of Eastern Asia, the various Customs Tariffs, Trade Regulations, Chambers of Commerce, Scales of Commissions, Consular and Court Fees, Hongkong Stamp Duties, Postal Guide, Signal Codes, Chinese Festivals, Tables of Money, Weights, and Measures, and other Commercial Information, including

TREATIES WITH CHINA.

Great Britain—Nanking, 1842; Tientsin, 1858; Tariff Agreement and Rules, 1858; Convention, 1860; Rules for Joint Investigation of Customs & Taxes, 1868; Chetoo, 1876, with additional Article; Opium Convention, 1886; Chungking Convention, 1890; Tibet Sikkim Convention, 1890; Burma Convention, 1897; Kowloon Extension, 1898; Weihaiwei Convention, 1898.

France—Tientsin, 1858; Convention, 1860; Tientsin, 1883; Conventions, 1886, 1887, and 1893; Frotter Trade Regulations.

United States—Tientsin, 1858; Additional, 1868; Peking, 1880; Immigration, 1894.

Germany—Tientsin, 1861; Peking, 1880; Kiao-nan Convention, 1893; Railway and Mining Concession, 1893.

Japan—Shimoneseki, 1895; Liuchow Convention, 1895; Commercial, 1896; New Ports, 1896.

Russia—St. Petersburg, 1881; Russian Land Trade, 191881; Port Arthur and Talienshan Agree, 1885.

Portgalm 1884.

TREATIES WITH JAPAN.

Great Britain, 1854; Duties Convention, 1855.

Russia, Agreements as to Corea; United States Extraterritorial Treaty, 1856.

TREATIES WITH COREA.

Japan, 1874; Japan Supplementary, 1878; United States, 1882; Great Britain, 1883; Trade Regulations.

TREATIES WITH SIAM.

Great Britain, 1854; France, 1853; Japan, 1854; Russia, 1859.

Great Britain and France, Siamese Frontier.

Great Britain and Russia, Railway Convention, 1898.

CUSTOMS TARIFFS.

TRADE REGULATIONS.

LEGAL DOCUMENTS.

Orders in Council for Government of H.B.M.'s Subjects in China, Japan, and Corea, 1865, 1877, 1878, 1881, 1884, 1886, 1886.

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BAYERN	THURSDAY	24th June	
STUTTGART	THURSDAY	13th July	
KONIG ALBERT	THURSDAY	26th July	
PRINZ HEINRICH	THURSDAY	6th August	
PREUSSEN	THURSDAY	23rd August	
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SACHSEN	WEDNESDAY	13th October	
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Hongkong, 26th April, 1900.

VESSELS ADVERTISED AS LOADING.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH

PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL
STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.

STEAMERS TO SAIL ON

REMARKS.

LONDON & MAR. 1 MAJACCA
 4th May | Freight or Passage. |

E. G. Andrews
 May | |

SHANGHAI
 12th May | |

C. L. W. Field
 May | |

CHUSAN
 12th May | |

C. T. Denny
 May | |

YOKOHAMA
 12th May | |

W. T. Townsend
 May | |

HAIRIE & HAMBURG
 12th May | |

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